

Fences offer privacy and enclosure that may be desirable in a residential setting. Fences also have a visual impact on properties and neighborhoods. To ensure that impact is positive, the City of Beloit regulates fences. These regulations establish standards for fence materials, construction, heights and placement on the property.

Location, Height, and Materials:

The height allowed for a fence depends on its location on your lot and on the fence style or material. Corner lots have additional requirements. Please refer to the diagram on the back for clarification.

Fences may be built up to your property line (which is a shared invisible line between two adjoining properties). Fences may be set back any distance from the lot line.

No fence, or portion thereof, shall be closer than eighteen (18") inches from the public sidewalk.

- Fences in Front or Street-Side Areas -shall not exceed 4 feet in height and be 50 percent open (see-through) and be of split rail, wrought iron or picket design. Chainlink fencing in the front setback or street side setback areas is prohibited unless the fence has manufacturer-applied decorative coloring on all components, including without limitation all posts and rails.
- Fences in Rear Setback or Interior Side Setback Areas -shall not exceed 8 feet in height and constructed using materials utilized by commercial fence installers suitable for residential-style fencing, including, but not limited to, brick, fieldstone, wrought iron, vinyl, chainlink (with a minimum thickness of 9 gauge and a required top rail support), stockade, or board-on-board wood.

Historic Districts

If you live in a local historic district, call the staff liaison for the Landmarks Commission at 608-364-6708, before you start building or enter into a contract with a fence company. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required before a fence permit can be issued.

Installation Regulations

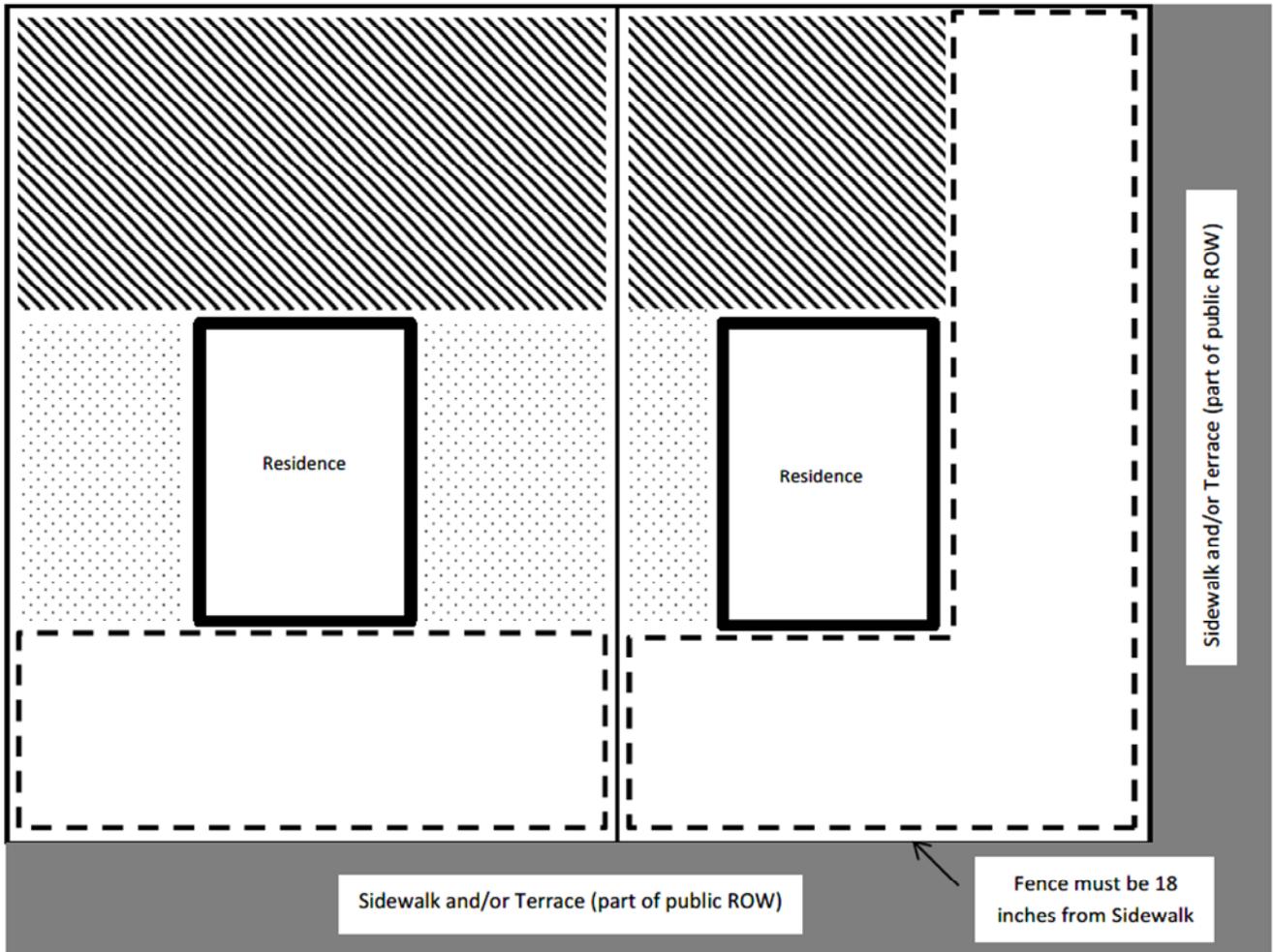
- All fence posts support components must be located on the inside of the fence facing the property on which the fence is located unless the fence is designed and constructed to look the same on both sides of the fence.
- Fences shall be installed plumb and the top finish of the fence shall be uniform.
- All fences proposed to be located in the front setback or street side setback shall comply with the regulations governing vision triangles found in section 8-400 of the Zoning Ordinance.
- The height of fences shall be measured vertically from the finished grade on the exterior side of the fence. Raising the finished grade by placing fill solely for the purpose of adding additional height to a fence is prohibited.
- The project site shall be marked by *Digger's Hotline* before digging holes for fence installation. The permit holder shall be responsible for damage to any underground utility. Diggers Hotline can be reached at 8-1-1, 1 (800) 242-8511 or www.diggershotline.com.
- No portion of any fence may extend beyond any property line, public right-of-way, or public land, unless the owner has secured a written and recorded easement.

Additional Information

- A plat of survey is not required to apply for a fence permit but you will need to determine where your property lines are located. If a survey is not included with your mortgage papers, may wish to hire a surveyor (listed online or in the Yellow Pages) to determine & mark your lot lines. Placing a fence that goes over a lot line onto your neighbor's property is not allowed; additional expense may be incurred to remedy the situation.
- A fence may not be built on neighboring property. If you believe your neighbor's fence encroaches onto your property, you may initiate private legal action. **City government does not arbitrate these disputes.** If you have a concern about a neighborhood fence and would like an inspector to investigate whether the fence was built to code or has the proper permit, call the Planning and Building Services Department at 608-364-6700.

Interior Lot

Corner Lot



Front Yard & Street Side Yard -Max 4 feet high and 50% open



Interior Side Yard -Max 8 feet high and privacy fencing is permitted



Rear Yard -Max 8 feet high and privacy fencing is permitted